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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

~~INTELLIGENCE REPORT~~

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/ USSR

DATE:

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SUBJECT Soviet Demand that Prague Deliver
100,000 Tons of Piping

INFO.

DIST

15 October 1947

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

1. The Czechoslovak Economic Delegation to the USSR returned to Prague with a serious increase in the Soviet demand for piping.
2. Two months ago the Soviets requested that 20,000 tons of piping be delivered by the end of 1947 as a condition for further trade talks. At that time, Czechoslovak industry could not promise more than 5,000 tons, which appeared to satisfy the Soviets.
3. On 11 October 1947, Loebl, head of the Economic Delegation to Russia and Chief of the Eastern Trade Division in the Czechoslovak Ministry for Foreign Trade, returned from the USSR with a report for Prime Minister Gottwald. This report stated that the Soviets demanded that the industrial resources of Czechoslovakia be marshalled immediately for the soonest possible delivery of 100,000 tons of piping to the USSR. Further commercial negotiations were to be suspended pending a promise from Czechoslovakia that the required amount would be produced and delivered.

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the new Soviet demand may reflect Russia's strategic intentions for a new pipeline. the inability of the Czechoslovaks to meet the demand might give an opportunity for new Prague negotiations with the West for wheat, feed, and other products.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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